

Department of Environmental Science OUTCOMES

Program Objectives

The Environmental Science major is unusual in that environmental science means many different things to people. To that end, people with environmental science degrees can have widely varying areas of expertise and knowledge. There are some common threads to being educated in Environmental Science, however, and the program does have required “dimensions.” The Department of Environmental Science has defined the following objectives for the program.

A student with a degree in Environmental Science should:

Knowledge

- Understand fundamental ecological concepts such as cycles, systems, ecosystems, food webs, biodiversity, trophic levels, energy flow in ecosystems, sustainability, etc.
- have a basic knowledge of environmental issues such as resource consumption, water use, energy, global warming, species extinction, effects of development, etc.
- have advanced knowledge in an area of their choice (ex. GIS, Green Planning, Wildlife Conservation, etc.)
- have a basic understanding of the relationships between developing and developed countries and their impact on the environment and each other

Skills

- be able to read, create, and interpret tables and graphs
- be able to collect environmental data (both through direct measurement and through literature research)
- be able to carry out data analysis using Excel, SPSS, GIS, and/or other software
- understand the interactions of citizens, businesses, NGO's, and government to form environmental policy
- be able to read, evaluate, and write effective, professional-level environmental reports
- be able to speak about environmental issues using appropriate aids such as MS PowerPoint

Dispositions

- reflect on the his/her personal environmental values as contrasted to those of others
- reflect on his/her “lot in life,” and how he/she fits in compared to people in developing countries and others in developed countries.